

## SHORT COMMUNICATION

**Further records of *Nysius senecionis* (Schilling) in the London area.**—Since first finding this small bug in 1998 in huge numbers on the banks of the Thames in urban central London (R. A. Jones; 1999, *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 12: 229–231), I have continued to search for it, especially in association with the Guernsey fleabane, *Conyza sumatrensis* (Retzius).

During 1999 I was fortunate enough to take part in a capital-wide survey of railway tracksides for London Underground. The tracksides varied from dense wood and scrub to recently scoured banks where recent engineering works had taken place. Such works usually created at least partly scoured earthworks with areas of bare soil and disturbed ground—perfect sites for the rapid colonization of adventitious plants, including, of course, *Conyza*. Sure enough, almost wherever the *Conyza* occurred, so did the *Nysius*. It was recorded from the following widespread sites.

Ladbroke Grove, TQ448142, 22.vi.1999, two swept from *C. sumatrensis* growing out of rough ballast along with a few other sparse straggling plants beside the station platform.

Fulham Broadway, TQ256774, 5.viii.1999, many swept from the large stands of *C. sumatrensis* on a broad flowery embankment.

Parson's Green, TQ254770, 8.viii.1999, several sweeping *C. sumatrensis* growing from the trackside ballast at the edge of bramble scrub and narrow woodland.

Shoreditch, TQ340822, 11.viii.1999, many on *C. sumatrensis* growing up amongst the broken concrete foundations of a derelict building behind the station. The bug was also beaten off several small clumps of Oxford ragwort, *Senecio squalidus* Linnaeus, but could not be found on the many plants of Canadian fleabane, *Conyza canadensis* (Linnaeus) also present.

Loughton, TQ422951, 17.viii.1999, several swept from *C. sumatrensis* on a broad gently sloping area of rough grassland around the sidings.

Hendon, TQ232885, 23.viii.1999, several by sweeping *C. sumatrensis* on a broad embankment recently churned up by heavy earthmoving machinery.

Neasden, TQ221852, 22.ix.1999, many on the very large stands of *C. sumatrensis* covering one end of a narrow but very flowery embankment.

All of these sites are in highly urban parts of London, but it cannot be long before the fleabane and the bug are more widespread, travelling along the brownfield corridors of the railway lines.—RICHARD A. JONES, 135 Friern Road, East Dulwich, London SE22 0AZ.

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## EPHEMEROPTERA RECORDING SCHEME

The Ephemeroptera recording scheme has been set up under the auspices of the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood, to encourage the recording of Ephemeroptera species throughout the British Isles. The principal aim of the scheme is to collect records of Ephemeroptera. This will allow distribution maps to be compiled and changes in the distribution of Ephemeroptera populations to be monitored.

The Ephemeroptera recording scheme is looking for any records of Ephemeroptera species from all over the British Isles. Adult Ephemeroptera can be collected throughout most of the summer, while the aquatic larvae of many species can be found during the winter, so that recording can be carried out all year round.

If you have records of Ephemeroptera species or you want to know more about the Ephemeroptera recording scheme then contact:

Ephemeroptera Recording Scheme

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